

THE LOGGER'S BARK

1916 - RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA - 2016

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Well, another field day is behind us. The Mighty DK set up again at Western State Hospital in Steilacoom as we have in the last few years, in pretty much the same configuration as before. Huge thanks to all the many folks who made this event possible. There's so much work that goes into any major Field Day weekend that it takes a great team to make it all happen.

This year we welcomed newer club member Adam Barbera, W7NCC, as Field Day Coordinator and I have to say he did a bang-up job from start to finish. And of course a big round of applause to all the many folks behind each station and all the infrastructure required to keep it powered, connected, logged, and the crew fed.

As many of us are aware, we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle with pretty poor and unreliable propagation and as a result unfortunately, band conditions weren't great for Field Day this year. But we still managed to pull in a decent number of contacts despite this. In fact, we were very close to last year's

total (1,195 this year vs. 1226 in 2016). Interestingly the totals for CW and Phone were very close – 547 on CW vs. 598 Phone.

And new this year we had a JT Modes station running to bring our Digital score to 50 contacts. Not bad! Another innovation for the club this year was the addition of the 160-Meter band. It's no small feat to rig an antenna for this band, but the team pulled it off – an inverted-L was erected with an apex up at least 100 feet in a Douglas fir tree. Was the effort worth it? Well, I'm sure for the 160m late-night operators it was! We logged in three contacts on CW and one on Phone for a total of four contacts.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



DAVE W7UUU



W7UUU Photo

A first for FD 2017—the dedicated Digital Station. Jim W7ZND (forward), Bruce WE7P, and Name and call sign unknown.

Our most productive band, as is often the case, was 20-Meters with a total of 623 contacts, with CW having an edge of 100 more contacts than the Phone total. Even 6-Meters saw some action, with a total of 9 contacts (1 CW, 8 Phone). Not bad considering the 6m operation wasn't constant throughout the event. Unfortunately, we weren't blessed with one of the crazy 6-Meter band openings we've had lately (just last Board Meeting, Randy WB4SPB could be heard working the East Coast on 6 CW right up until the meeting started!) otherwise that score might have been higher.

In all, we had 26 operators (up 2 from last year): AC7QN, AD7EU, AF7YD, K7MLO, K7TMW, KA7NWF, KF7GPO, KG7ZYB, KI7KSF, KR7W, K7EIE, N7OMS, NG7G, KI7LTD, KI7LTV, W2NCC, W6RHY, W7LKG, W7MKE, W7MWF, W7XH, W7XTZ, W7ZND, WBSPB, WB7TVS, and WE7P. A big thanks to all who had a chance to operate – especially those intrepid folks who ran the all-night shift. I had hoped to operate myself, but instead learned a rule I wasn't aware of: I had worked W7DK on 20 and 6 just before heading to the site, when I learned that disqualified me from operating! Rats! Oh well – next year I won't make that mistake again.

Paul, Jan and Red ran the Mess Hall and did a fabulous job as always. We had wonderful pork ribs, hot fried chicken, baked beans of a couple different flavors, several potato salads, macaroni salad, lots of fruits and yummy deserts. Many thanks to the chef team and to all those who brought supplemental dishes.

In closing, please click on this link [LINK](#) to see a clever 360-degree tour of our Field Day site, provided by our own Jim Palwitz, W7ZND. He walks the site, all in a camera view you can "mouse around" and look anywhere you want. Very fun short video – thanks Jim for sending this along. Keep an eye on the W7DK web site as I'm sure many photos will be sent along to be uploaded to the site.



Jan K7HTU, Paul W7PFU, and Red WB7EC of the FD Food Station. Chicken and Ribs for Saturday's dinner were superb.



20M SSB + Digital Station (in foreground) shelter shack. The digital ops set up patio area to sip umbrella drinks and plan their strategy. SSB Yagi on military tower in background. Nearly horizontal ropes are supports for the 40M wire Yagi.

All in all, W7DK Field Day 2017 was an overall great success and it all pulled off without a hitch. A final thanks to all who helped in any way to make this the success it was – my hat's off to you. 73– W7UUU



Joe KG7ZYB (L) and Bruce WB7TBS operate the 20M SSB Station.

Note the Big Radio - It's an Icom IC-7700 loaned to the club by Icom in Bellevue.

Hat's off to FD Field Marshall Adam W2NCC for arranging the radio loan.



W7UUU Photo



Bob KE7WPK (L) and Worth W7WG chat it up in the Mess Tent.



W7UUU Photo

IT Server Room in back of Randy WB4SPB's car. These two PCs and wireless routers at each shelter ties all logging PCs together.



W7UUU Photo

Good times and camaraderie at the Saturday Evening Potluck dinner

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST

BY RICH KR7W - BARK EDITOR

Greetings Readers...

This month I am announcing the 2017 **Field Day Photo Contest**. Did you take photos out at the club's or another field day event? Are there any you are fond of? If so... send me 3 of your fav fotos to be judged by the Barkie Staff. The First, Second, and Third Place winners will receive 300 KB of fame— which is worth a Small Coffee at McDonalds.

FIELD DAY FOTO CONTEST

Email to: 599kr7w@gmail.com LINK

Bunny Hunt Winner-

As promised in last months newsletter— the overall Bunny Hunt winner would be revealed.

The committee created this criteria for the winning contestant:

1. Built their own equipment
2. Participated in building club building projects
3. Found the most bunnies
4. Had a respectable time.

Notable Runner Ups:

Paul W7PFU— found 3 out of 4 bunnies and built all or most of his equipment in club sponsored activities.

Jim W7OWI— found 3 out of 4 bunnies and built all or most of his equipment.

See May 2017's Bark Newsletter for photos of the bunny hunt event.

THIS MONTHS CONTENTS

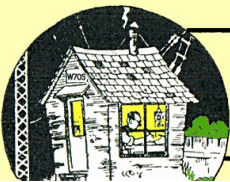
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Overall Hunt Winner-

Mike W7MKE who found all 4 bunnies in a time approx 30 minutes more than the fastest experienced hunter, built his own equipment in club sponsored activities.

Mike was presented a handsome trophy at the June club meeting. Way to go Mike.





HAMSHACK_s OF THE MONTH

BY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Radio Club of Tacoma President Dave - W7UUU submitted this blurb about his Special Event Station- **K1T** - aka kit , the last part of **Heathkit**. Dave collects and restores Heathkit amateur products and uses them almost exclusively. Read on about Dave's cool project.



Heathkit CW Rig: SB-401 transmitter just above the Lollipop Microphone on the left. SB-301 receiver to the R of the 401. Above the 301 is a SB-650 digital display to indicate accurate frequency readout. Many CW Morse keys, keyers and CW keyboard reside on the desk top to the R of the lollipop microphone.

The SSB station to the L side and above the chrome mic (HDP-121A with orange PTT bar) on R side of table. It's a SB-101 transceiver with SB-650 digital display for accurate frequency read-out. On the desk top is SB-640 external LMO for split operation and the SB-620 Panoramic Band-Scope.

Special Event Station K1T goes live July 23rd until August 6th

Dave W7UUU will be operating as K1T beginning July 23rd. This special event station will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the first electronic Heathkit product, a 5-inch oscilloscope first advertised in the July 1947 issue of Radio News magazine. It was this product that launched Heath Co. as we remember it, a vast array of build-it yourself products that eventually became one of the biggest brands of amateur radio gear on the market. The start date of July 23 marks the tragic death of Howard E. Anthony, second owner of Heath Co. and the man with the vision that took his company down the path that many of us remember so well.

Please read more on www.QRZ.com LINK for call sign **K1T**, where you can find operating dates and times which will be updated as the event gets closer. The K1T station consists of a vast array of fully restored Heathkit gear in several operating positions, all of which can be seen on the K1T QRZ page and in the photo above.



AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE INFO



FIELD DAY PHOTO CONTEST

SUBMIT 3 of your Favorite W7DK, K7LED or any other FD Photos to Win **300 KB of FAME!**

Email to Rich 599kr7w@gmail.com **LINK**



Adam, W2NCC notes concerns at post FD meeting.

Dateline– June 28, 2017— RCT Clubhouse... At the 4th Weds Club Meeting– Field Day Field Marshall Adam W2NCC hosted a 'What we did well vs What we can do better' post Field Day meeting. The room was packed and nearly everyone had something to say. Your reporter jotted some brief notes.

What could be better highlights include: 20 Meter CW interferes with 20 Meter Digital and 20 Meter SSB severely interferes with 20 Meter CW. Operating scheduling at some stations was chaotic. There should be a Station Manager Workshop– so everyone is on the same page and know what's expected of them. [Your reporter thinks that's a good idea]. More Garbage cans are needed here and there. Someone opined that the Old Military 'Rocket Launcher' towers are dangerous and better ways to elevate Yagis are needed.

What went well highlights include: Good food served– especially Saturday evening. Team work went well– everyone got along and got the work completed. Some new folks reported positive learning experiences. Even though propagation was poor– lots of contacts were made.

Please note that there were many more Positive vs Negative comments than I have listed.

Your reporter just received some score statistics from the Field Day Server Room courtesy of Randy WB4SPB. Take a looky and see how you contributed to the over all W7DK Field Day Score.

QSOs By Station Band and Mode

Station	Band	Mode	Qs	Pct of AllQs
80-15M	15	CW	5	0.42
DIGITAL	15	DIG	9	0.75
80-15M	15	PH	13	1.08
20M-PH	160	CW	3	0.25
20M-PH	160	PH	1	.008
20M-CW	20	CW	353	29.5
DIGITAL	20	DIG	27	2.26
20M-PH	20	PH	243	20.33
40M	40	CW	123	10.29
DIGITAL	40	DIG	13	1.09
40M	40	PH	243	20.33
80-15M	6	CW	1	.008
80-15M	6	PH	8	0.67
80-15M	80	CW	62	5.19
DIGITAL	80	DIG	1	.008
80-15M	80	PH	90	7.53

Photo below shows the **Eldico SSB** transmitter in the Museum. It hasn't been worked on in 5 or 6 weeks because the Museum Folks are also Field Day participants that have been preparing for the Big Show.

The last thing done to the Eldico was to connect up Umbilical Wires from the Acme Power Supply (1) to the Filament Terminal strips (3) in Eldico. Voltage was slowly applied to the filament supply using a Variac (2) until the input voltage was 110 Volts AC while observing the AC Amps used.

As the AC input voltage approached approx 100 Volts— an On Looker in the Museum shouted out, "Look! It's Headlights are On" - meaning that Eldico's Dial Lights are illuminated. Probably the first time in 50 years those lights have been on.

The next thing to try is adding + 300 VDC to Eldico via more umbilical wiring. Stay tuned for more Eldico news.





CLUB MEETING TRAFFIC

PROVIDED BY: MIKE W7MWF, CLUB SECRETARY

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m . PDT by President Dave W7UUU

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Quorum? A quorum was present. 12 RCT members signed the attendance roster.

Silent Key or Illness? None reported

Minutes of April 5, 2017 Board Meeting were approved as circulated

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual Correspondence; Memberships, utility bills, periodicals.

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD reported that all current bills have been paid. The Club has approximately \$34K and 30K in the primary checking and savings accounts respectively. Currently Steve is working on the migration of the records from MicroSoft Money (obsolete) to Intuit Quickbooks.

Committee / Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE reports that membership currently stands at 289 with new members and renewals still trickling in.

Training No tech class scheduled for May
Next VE Session May 9
General class – completed in April – It was reported that the pass rate for the class was 70%

Info Tech Randy WB4SPB reported that all systems are operating nominally and that he is reconfiguring a second computer for use in the HF Room.

HF Operations There was extensive discussion regarding our action to acquire a used M2 Orion Rotor and a new Green Heron controller. When considering the additional cost of having the rotor evaluated by a professional and the lack of a warranty, it was the general con-

sensus that it would be imprudent to move forward on this solution to the broken rotor problem. It was moved and seconded to rescind the board action taken on April 5 to acquire the used rotor and new GH Controller. By voice vote the motion passed with no objections. It was further moved to authorize the expense of up to \$1000 for the purchase of a new Alfa Spid rotor and controller. After discussion, by voice vote the motion was approved without objection. Phil K7PIA and Bruce WE7P will coordinate the acquisition process.

Repeater Ops Upgrade to the new controller is still in progress and testing.

Facilities Mgmt A new tire ordered for lawnmower at a cost of approximately \$25.
Ongoing cleanup of scrap materials around the clubhouse is being undertaken.

Property Mgmt Red WB7EC reported that the last Saturday April Sale netted \$118. Red will be coordinating with committee chairs to inventory non-lockup property such as computers, repeaters, furniture et cetera over the next year.

Museum No formal report. Refurbishment of the Eldico transmitter is currently dependent upon building a new power supply.

Weds Activity Night May topic TBD. Possibilities include ARDF and/or Field Day workshops

General Meeting Adam W2NCC will make a presentation regarding W7DK Field Day 2017 plans and status.

Unfinished Business (if not addressed during committee reports)

ARDF Bunny Hunt – Being planned on May 21, to be held at Ft Nisqually/Point Defiance. Present liability release. Many out-of-town participants expected.

W7MWF - Designation and installation of signage for additional handicap parking spaces soon to be completed.

New Business

It was noted that several club members have requested the installation of auxiliary hand grippers in the bathrooms. This will be added to the projects list.

It was noted that the guy wire stanchions and other physical obstacles may represent a trip hazard around the clubhouse and in the parking lots. Mike W7MWF will follow up and try to mitigate the risks.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

Field Day Planning – Adam W2NCC facilitated one planning session at the April 4WAN. Many leadership slots have been filled. At present, we will be a 5A station with the availability of a Pure Digital venue. Signup sheets for help/tasks are being circulated at the Clubhouse and at meetings.

Comm Academy Steve AF7YD attended and reported on the The19th Annual Communications Academy was held on April 22nd & 23rd, 2017 at South Seattle College.

Announcements No other announcements

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. PDT

**Radio Club of Tacoma
General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Dave W7UUU at the Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse.

The meeting location was changed because of the unavailability of the Pierce County Library facility.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike W7MKE

Welcome and Self-Introductions

Guests Prospective amateur operator Dale attended the meeting and was given info about licensing classes.

New Calls None reported

Self-introductions were performed and approximately 25 individuals signed the attendance roster.

Health and Welfare

Silent Keys None reported

Secretary's Report Mike W7MWF reported receipt of the usual stuff, membership renewals and new joins, periodicals, utility bills and bank statements.

Treasurer's Report Steve AF7YD reported all bills are paid and that migration of data to new accounting system continues.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership Mike W7MKE reports membership currently stands at 290

Training Technician license training will be held Jun 10/11

VE Report Mike W7WF reported on the last VE session on behalf of John AC7WW. The next VE Session will be held June 13.

HF Ops Phil K7PIA provided an update on plans to purchase a new Alfa Spid rotor and controller.

Repeater Ops Repeater upgrade project - the new controller has been installed on the 440 MHz repeater and is undergoing testing and fine tuning before moving on the the 2 meter system.

Museum Randy WB4SP advised that the team is working on a power supply for the Eldico transmitter that is being refurbished.

Facilities Mgmt Mike W7MWF re grounds cleanup efforts - A work day will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 12. Everyone is invited to participate

Prop Mgmt Red WB7EC reported that PMT is running out of stuff for Last Saturday Sales and solicited suitable donations.

4th Weds Activity Night will be Logging Software Familiarization and on-air protocols for Field Day

New Business No new business was presented.

Program Field Day 2017 - Adam W2NCC updated us on plans for the 2017 Field Day Operation to be held June 24/25

Unfinished Business and Announcements

ARDF/Bunny Hunt Scheduled The Club will be sponsoring a Hidden Transmitter Hunt on Sunday, May 21 from 10AM until 2PM at Fort Nisqually area in Point Defiance Park. This will be on fairly easy terrain, plenty of parking, and some loaner equipment will be available. Make it a family even, no license required! See Rich KR7W, Mike W7MWF or Bob K7MXE for more details. Also there is lots of info about it in the March Issue of The Loggers Bark and on the website w7dk.org

Comm Academy 2017 - Steve AF7YD will give an overview of the event held April 22-23 at South Seattle College -

Special Olympics Ham Participation [This is an ongoing announcement] John KC7OLB for amateur radio operators to assist with the Special Olympic of Washington Summer Games 2017 that will be held at PLU and the surrounding communities June 3rd and 4th 2017 [note: this is the same weekend as SeaPac convention]. Contact John Caverly, KC7OLB Jonathan Caverly caverlyj@gmail.com

Show and Tell

Tuning and Traffic

Door Prize The door prize was won by Whit KG7LNZ

Raffle Prize The raffle prize was won by Warren NG7G

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. PDT



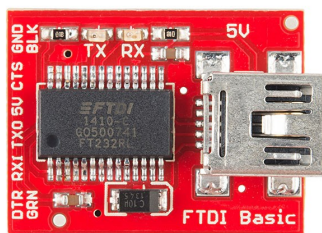
HOME-BREW An ICOM CI-V Rig Interface— for El Cheap-O

Perhaps at the club's Field Day— you noticed that the logging software was communicating with the Icom Radios. When the Mode on the Radio was changed from CW to SSB (or visa versa) then the Log software followed. This automatic action is handy so the operator doesn't need to remember to make the change in the software.

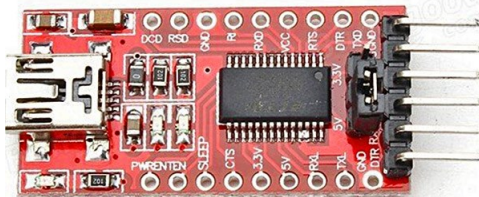
The PC that the software is running on- is communicating with the Icom Radio via a USB Serial Port in the PC and into the radio's CI-V jack— called REMOTE on the radio. Icom encourages its radio owners to purchase their CI-V product, the CT-17 RS-232 to multiple CI-V connections for \$135 at Giga-Parts. RT-Systems has one for \$27. Amazon sells them for under \$10 (shipped from China). But this article is on the 'construction' page... so Let's get started building one.

First off, CI-V is a bi-directional TTL data path where the TX and RX wires are connected together to be one lead against a GND path. Arduino hobbyists use USB to TTL converters to program their smaller sized micro-processors.

These converters are USB towards the PC and TTL to the radio that can be used. Looky Left. It's important to get the **FTDI** boards— that way Windows can easily install the USB drivers to create the virtual serial port in your PC— that the logging software uses to



From Sparkfun LINK. USB-A cable needed to connect to PC. Cost is \$15+ ship.

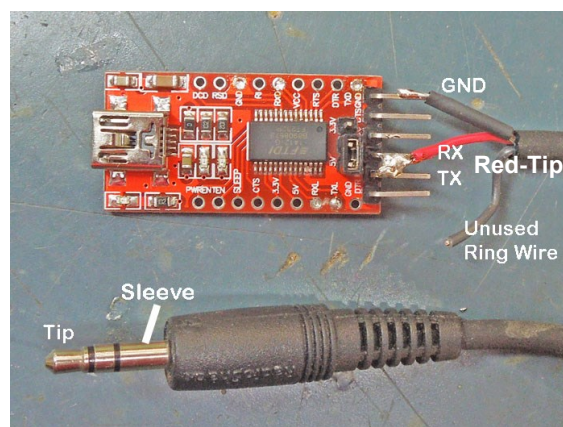


From Bangood LINK. USB-Mini cable needed to connect to PC. Cost \$3 + maybe free shipping that takes 10-15

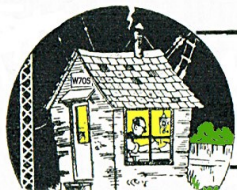
communicate with the radio via this system.

Let's build it- Find a surplus 3.5mm Tip Sleeve or T-R-Sleeve cable and cut it open. On the Bangood board, blob solder the TX and RX together and connect this to the 3.5 mm plugs Tip wire. Blob solder the GND wire from the plug to the boards GND connection.

After you obtain the USB-Serial Port number using the Device Manager— then you can tell your logging software which port to use. Consult your Icom radios instructions on how to set the port speed (9600 here) and the radios HEX address. It's Easy-Peasy fun to build and El-Cleapo.



Tape it up or find a small enclosure to house it.



TNT

THE NEW THING

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTABLE IN HAM RADIO?

CONTRIBUTIONS BY READERS LIKE YOU

Has the **QRP Portable**, aka **Picnic Table Radio** bug bitten you? But you can't quite justify or afford the super-duper Elecraft KX2? Perhaps this little Trail Friendly radio will fit your bill...

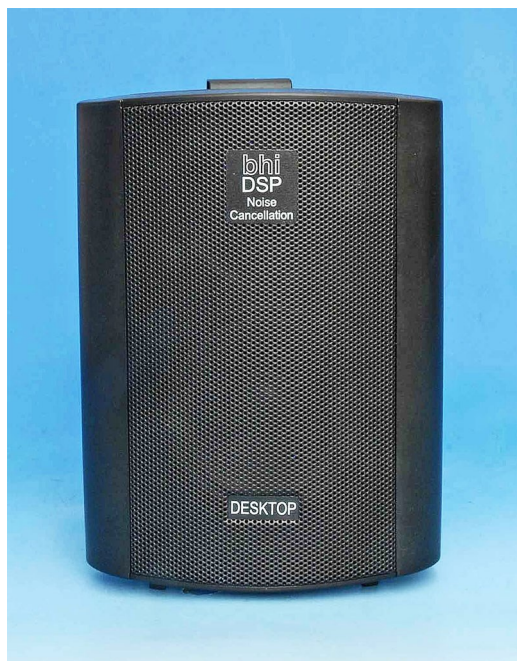
LNR LD-5 QRP transceiver- touted to have "an amazing" receiver, has up to 8 watts out on 40, 30, 20, 17, and 12 meter bands using CW or SSB modes. It weighs in at 1 pound + 3 oz. At 13 volts battery input- it uses 350 mA on receive (pretty good) and up to 2 Amps transmitting. A 3S LiPo or LiFe hobby battery would be a perfect battery match. An external Antenna Tuner must be used. It costs \$575. More Info Here:



<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/12536>

<https://www.lnrprecision.com/store/#!/LD-5/p/39885476/category=10468544>

Are you using an older transceiver? Maybe an Icom IC-725 vintage rig? Listening to harsh receive noise on 75 meter phone frequencies making your head ache and ears tired? Perhaps this modern day gizmo will lift a load off of your weary hearing muscles...

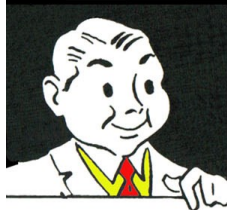


The **BHI DESKTOP 10 Watt DSP Noise Cancelling Speaker**... This speaker consists of a 4" bass driver and a 1" tweeter unit with amplified bhi DSP noise cancelling electronics capable of producing up to 10 Watts audio (peak). The frequency response is 50 Hz to 4.3 KHz communications quality bandwidth. There are rotary controls on the side of the speaker to control 8 levels of noise reduction and volume. It plugs into your radios 4-8 ohm SPKR jack or accepts high Z line level input. There's a 3.5 mm headphone jack for private listening.

More Info Here:

<https://www.bhi-ltd.com/noise-cancelling/dsp-noise-cancelling-speakers/desktop.html>

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/13039>



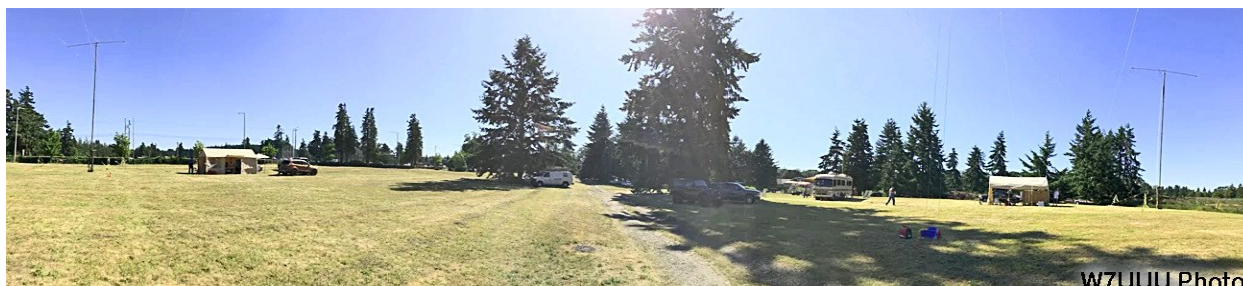
THE LOGGER'S BARK PHOTO PAGE



A Big Barkie hats off to Club Prez Dave– W7UUU for providing all of this issues Field Day Photos.



Below is a Pana-Rama shot of the W7DK Field Day Field.



W7UUU Photo

**20M SSB
+ Digital**

**80M + 15M
SSB + CW**

**20M CW
40M SSB + CW**



W7UUU Photo

(Left) FD Meet n Greet Info Center– right next to the Mess Tent. Here visitors can park near by and get directions how to tour the field. At the little table is Greta KF7KSW (right) and an unknown visitor. Mess tent attendees in background.



W7UUU Photo

At the 20M CW Station (right)- Rich KR7W gets a chuckle from listening to CW Op Rick W7LKG (standing) telling that Rich must be crazy for owning an Icom radio like the 20M SSB station is using. Jimmy K7SSS's shaking head is agreeing.

More FD Photos next month– as we see the results of the FD Photo Contest.
73 from Bark Editor



RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

1916 - 2016

100 YEARS OF SERVICE



THE LOGGER'S BARK is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...* and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5
Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1500 ft ASL)
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5
North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL=141.3

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.